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BOROUGH OF PENRYN

REPORT

OF

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

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To the Mayor, Aldermen and Committee of the BOROUGH OF PENRYN.

Dr. Blamey, your Medical Officer for many years, ceased to hold office on 31st December, 1948. The duty of writing the report for 1948 has consequently fallen to an officer whose connection with the Borough did not begin until 1949.

The health of the Borough was good throughout the year.

The birth rate at 24 per thousand population compares very favourably with the rate for England and Wales which was 17.9.

The death rate at 12.8 was somewhat higher than the rate for the whole country which was 10.8. but it is a well known fact that Penryn had a comparatively large population of people in the upper age groups. This accounts for the high proportion of deaths from cancer, 16 (32.7% of the whole), heart diseases, 13(27.5%) and intercranial vascular lesions, 9 (18.4%), all of which are diesease chiefly affecting older people.

GENERAL STATISTICS

	1947	1948.
Area	721 acres	721 acres
Population ...	3,638	3,840
No. of Inhabited Houses	1,115	1,175
Rateable Value ...	£18,516 approx	£19,006. 10s.
Product of Penny Rate	£70 ..	£73.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

Males 51 Females 41 Total 92

	1947	1948
Crude Birth Rate, per 1,000 population, Penryn	24.1	24.0
" " " " " " England &Wales	20.5	17.9

Still Births - One.

Deaths.

Males 24 Females 25 Total 49

	1947	1948
Crude Death Rate, per 1,000 population, Penryn	15.6	12.8.
" " " " " " England & Wales	12.0	10.8

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age - Two.

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATHS

Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1
Cancer	16
Diabetes	1
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	9
Heart Diseases	13
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	1
Bronchitis	1
Pneumonia	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	1
Nephritis	1
Disease of Early Infancy	1
Road Traffic Accidents	1
All other causes	1
All causes	49

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICE

The transition on the appointed day made noticeable differen the service available to the public. The various clinics continued to function smoothly and well. There were no complaints regarding the Ambulance Service or the Hospital Car Service.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following tables indicate the infectious diseases notified during the year.

Age Group	Scarlet Fever M	Scarlet Fever F	Measles M	Measles F
0 - 1	-	-	-	2
1 3	-	-	4	4
3 - 5	-	-	5	4
5 -10	-	-	3	9
10-15	-	1	-	1
15-25	-	-	-	-
25+	-	-	-	-
	-	1	12	20
TOTALS	1		32	

Age Group	Pneumonia M	Pneumonia F	Erysipelas M	Erysipelas F	Cerebro - spinal Fever M	Cerebro - spinal Fever f
0 - 5	1	-	-	-	-	-
5 -15	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-45	-	-	1	-	1	-
45-65	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1	-	1	-	1	-
TOTALS	1		1		1	

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases Pulmonary M	New Cases Pulmonary F	New Cases Non-pulmonary M	New Cases Non-pulmonary F	Deaths Pulmonary M	Deaths Pulmonary F	Deaths Non-Pulmonary M	Deaths Non-Pulmonary F
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-
25-35	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-45	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	4	2	-	1	-	1	-	-
	6		1		1		-	

Once again there was no case of diphtheria. This was doubtless due to the enthusiasm of my predecessor and the good sense of the people which have between them ensured that over 90% of the children in the Borough have been immunised against the disease by protective inoculation.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant

V.E. WHITMAN

Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF PENRYN

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1948

9th November, 1949.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

This Annual Report forms the summary of the reports made to the Health Committee of the Council during the year under review.

Water Supply

There has been no complaint regarding the adequacy or the quality of the water supplied in the town by the Falmouth Corporation Water Works.

It is to be hoped that the Statutory Undertakers will complete their duty of providing an adequate supply of wholesome water by extending the existing main to Tremoughdale, Truro Hill and Round Ring in order that the houses on the periphery of the built up area may be properly served.

Sewerage

The sewage outfalls remain the same as reported last year. The Summercourt sewers have gain been cleaned and have shown that the pipes are defective in places and should be renewed as soon as the final line of the sewers has been decided.

During the year complaints have continued to arise regarding the unsatisfactory condition of the pipes in the College river and asbestos pipes have been purchased to replace the defective cast iron and steel outfall pipe which lies in the bed of the stream from the rear of the Commercial Inn to a point beyond Messrs Fox Stanton's bridge.

The Council's decision to segregate the storm water from the sewage, as suggested in my last annual report, has been accepted by the owners erecting new property and so far no difficulty has arisen in dealing with the rain water by soakaways.

Housing Act 1936 and Public Health Act 1936.

During the year an acceleration in the repair of war damage properties has been noticed.

The majority of owners appear anxious to remedy defects in the actual structure but few are inclined to provide the additional facilities which houses of a reasonable standard should possess.

Having now had an opportunity of closer investigation in the housing conditions within the Borough I am of the opinion that a large number of the houses as individual units are too small to provide the amenities associated with good living conditions. A good percentage of these houses are however, in a reasonable state structurally and in a number of instances where there are several in a block a great improvement could be made by altering the houses to form one unit of accommodation. In addition to attain the acquired standard of light and ventilation for these houses it would be necessary to demolish some of the smaller and less sound houses in the block.

Action on lines similar to those suggested in my report on Renfree's Yard would result in better accommodation being provided for elderly couples or families of two or three persons at less expense than would be involved in the erection of new houses.

There is of course the practical difficulty of re-housing one or more of the families in a block in order that the reconstruction or redistribution can be made and this appears to be only possible by the speedier erection of new houses.

It is to be hoped that the proposed legislation will provide both the financial means for the owners to carry out improvements to such properties mentioned above and also that the means will be given to local authorities to acquire such property economically and carry out improvements where the landlord is unwilling or inable to do so himself.

For this part of the report the following action has been taken:-

Number of inspections made were- 41
Informal Notices served - 14
Statutory Notices served - 1
Statutory Notices complied with- Nil.

Meat and Other Foods

The usual inspections of Meat and Other Foods have been carried out in the district and in no case has statutory action been required to obtain the surrender of any food which was found to be unfit for human consumption. The following weights of food were condemned-

Dried & Cured Fish	575½ lbs
Split Peas	140 lbs
Various Tinned Food	175 lbs

Bakehouses

The Bakehouses have been kept in a satisfactory condition during the year and the owners have co-operated without the necessity of the servers of any Notices

Number of Bakehouses -3
Number of Inspections -12

Milk and Dairies

The premises of the twelve registered cow keepers have been inspected and have generally been found to be in a satisfactory state of cleanliness required but as a result of informal action the occupier made and maintained considerable improvement.

The seven dairies retailing milk have been under regular supervision and satisfactory conditions have been maintained during the year.

During the year an application was made for the registration of a premises for the production of milk and this registration was refused on the grounds that the premises were not and could not be made to comply with the standard laid down in the Local Dairies Order. The applicant when informed of the standard required was not prepared to make any alternative suggestions.

The C.W.S. Creamery which has a pasteurising licence has been regularly inspected during the year . Twenty- five samples have been taken which all passed the Methylene Blue test and with the exception of two the Phosphatase test.

Ice Cream.

The six premises registered for the sale of ice cream have been inspected and found satisfactory. During the year two of these premises manufactured ice cream and the remainder

sold ice cream of proprietary brands.

Refuse Collection

The difficulties of controlling properly the disposal of refuse has been reported upon during the year to the Council and until some provision is made for a proper sea boundary to the tip these conditions will continue as the face of the refuse is continually exposed to the rise and fall of the tide.

The work has been commenced and continued, so far as finance would allow on the building of a retaining wall at the Ponsharden end of the tip and it is hoped that during the next financial year a further wall will be added as the necessary hard material is accummulating.

The vexed question of the provision of proper dust bins is still unsatisfactorily dealt with by the landlord in the town.

Whilst I am prepared to agree that proper dust bins have been in short supply during the war and immediate post war years the position has now eased considerably and it is felt that a stronger line of action can now be reasonably taken.

Salvage

The total amount of salvage materials collected and disposed of during the past twelve months were as follows:-

Mixed Paper -	37tons.	6cwts.	3qrs.	£283
Rags and string -		7cwts.	1qr.	£ 6

Rodent Control

During the year the Council had the misfortune of loosing, through ill health, the services of Mr. Dunstan the Rodent Operator Toward the middle of the year it appeared that the work of previous years had at last bourne fruit and that the rat population had been reduced to such a small number as to give rise to very little, if no complaint.

Every effort was made to replace the Rodent Operator but the absense of training facilities made it extremely difficult to make use for such willing labour as was available, but a certain amount of work w s done during the year, the following inspections and premises were dealt with:-

The number of inspections and re-inspections made is 760.

Premises treated

Dwellings and gardens	- 85
Factory Premises	- 22
Refuse Dump	- 1
Piggeries	- 1
Leat	- 1
Sea Walls	2

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

K.R. BLACKMORE.

Sanitary Inspector.